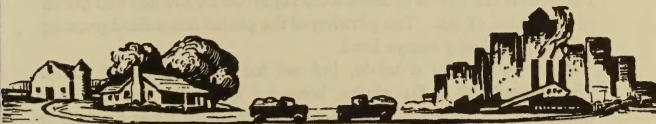
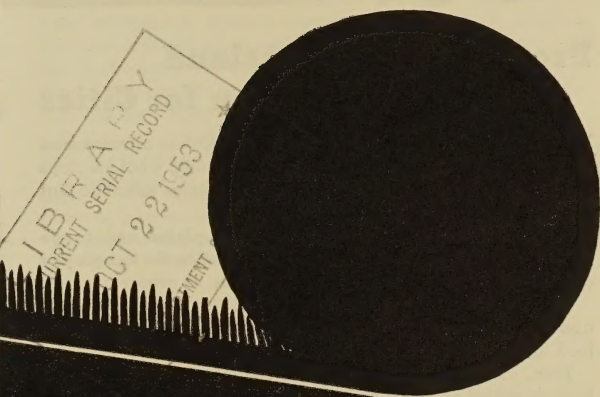


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# THE MAGIC CARPET



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION



## Protection for Grassland Is Protection for Cities

**W**HEN you get down to brass tacks, the farmer or ranchman does not have complete freedom in deciding what his crops will be. The land itself and the climate to a large extent do that for him.

This has been particularly true of the plains and range country in the West. Although the land is fertile, the topography and the amount of rainfall finally determine its proper use.

Cattle ranching came first to the plains and range country, and it prospered. The native grasses, which were a nutritious feed, also protected the land.

Then, as the westward movement continued, more and more farmers settled on small homesteads in the plains country. On these small farms they had to grow crops that brought more cash than grass would return. Scientists gave them the hard wheats, and these were their crops. They were encouraged by good prices. And so the plow was put to millions of acres still left in range and the native grasses were replaced by the heavier green of cultivated crops. The plowing of the plains intensified grazing on the remaining range land.

That worked for a while, but not for long. Drought came. The plowed soil of the plains, bone-dry under the hot sun, was gathered up by winds that sometimes blew for days on end; it became a huge shadow over the country, a "black blizzard" through which the sun shone blood-red. Topsoil was blown away; whole farms were denuded; dunes reaching up to 15 or 20 feet were formed. And on the range, drought had effects almost as disastrous. In many cases the more intensive grazing resulted in the killing out of the native grasses. Weeds came in. Rain, when it fell, found no carpet of grass to slow up its run-off. Lands

were gullied. Half-starved livestock had to be shipped off to market at sacrifice prices. Farms and homes were abandoned, land went back to county or State for delinquent taxes, and whole communities of people who remained were reduced to poverty.

That's not the end of the story of the grass cover on the plains and the range. Like other sections of the United States, the grasslands of the West were often exploited rather than developed. But that attitude is changing. If the range is denuded and made barren, it means not only poverty to those who dwell upon it, but the lack of food it might have produced and the decreased buying power of those on the land will eventually be felt in all our cities and towns.

All of American farming has been working under a handicap these past years, and, in the interest of everyone, ways must be found to place it on a permanently prosperous and productive footing. Through act of Congress the help of all the people has been extended to farmers cooperating in the AAA program. As a part of the job of helping them build a permanent agriculture, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration has developed a special conservation program for the range. That program helps ranchers and farmers put into effect practices like these:

1. Natural reseeding by deferred grazing, so that grass may again hold down the soil and build up fertility.

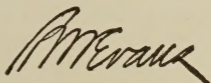
2. Development of stock water on range land, by use of earthen and concrete dams, or by improvement of natural watering places, so that grass is better utilized.

3. Erosion and run-off control, by means of listing, furrowing, chiseling, contour ridging, spreader dams, and terracing, so that water soaks in.

4. Elimination of noxious plants which come in when natural range cover is killed out.

And farmers are being helped through other parts of the national farm program to restore a cover of grass to land that experience has shown is unsuited to crops. Abandoned farms are being purchased and restored to grass. Water facilities are being developed in certain areas.

Through these measures a magic carpet of grass can be restored to our western grasslands to the benefit of both producers and consumers.



Administrator.



"There is a point of balance . . . where the welfare of both the farmer and the consumer is best served. And it is that point of balance that we are working toward. That is what the agricultural adjustment program is all about."

—Secretary of Agriculture Henry A. Wallace.

## **Producer-Consumer Leaflets**

This is the tenth in a series of 12 leaflets dealing with the various ways in which the problems of farmers and city people are related. The following is the complete list of leaflets in the series:

- PC-1 **And So They Meet.**—Farmers and city people: Both producers—both consumers.
- PC-2 **The Things We Want.**—Making abundance work for all our people.
- PC-3 **On Tired Soil.**—Poor soil means poor people on the farms and in the cities.
- PC-4 **Two Families—One Farm.**—Stable tenure means better producers and better consumers.
- PC-5 **To Buy Abundantly.**—Producers of abundance deserve to be consumers of abundance.
- PC-6 **Plenty.**—Avoiding the scarcity of famine and overabundance.
- PC-7 **Between You And Me.**—The distributor's place in production and consumption.
- PC-8 **None Shall Go Hungry.**—Making abundance work for low-income families.
- PC-9 **Grow Your Own.**—Better home living means better production and consumption.
- PC-10 **The Magic Carpet.**—Protection for grassland is protection for cities.
- PC-11 **The Farm Home And AAA.**—Better farm income means better farm homes.
- PC-12 **Country Life And AAA.**—A permanent security for farm and city.

Copies of this leaflet and others in this series may be obtained upon request from the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

## **Reference Suggestions**

The material in this leaflet is based on facts presented in various governmental studies and publications, including:

- "The Problem: Subhumid Areas."—Soils and Men, Yearbook of Agriculture, 1938, pages 68-76. U. S. Department of Agriculture.
- "Give the Range a Chance."—WR Leaflet No. 301, Agricultural Adjustment Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.
- "National Aspects of Land Use Planning."—Report of the Secretary of Agriculture, 1938, pages 54-56. U. S. Department of Agriculture.
- "Report on Range Resources."—Yearbook of Agriculture, 1937, pages 87-88. U. S. Department of Agriculture.